

REPORT ON THE MASTER THESIS

GPS – Geopolitical Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University

Title of the thesis:	The Rise of China: A Comparative Analysis of Empires
Author of the thesis:	Kristin Templin
Referee (incl. titles):	Michael Romancov, Ph.D.

Remark: It is a standard at the FSV UK that the Referee's Report is at least 500 words long. In case you will assess the thesis as "non-defendable", please explain the concrete reasons for that in detail.

SUMMARY OF POINTS AWARDED (for details, see below):

CATEGORY	POINTS
<i>Theoretical background (max. 20)</i>	12
<i>Contribution (max. 20)</i>	13
<i>Methods (max. 20)</i>	12
<i>Literature (max. 20)</i>	15
<i>Manuscript form (max. 20)</i>	15
TOTAL POINTS (max. 100)	67
The proposed grade (A-B-C-D-E-F)	C-D

Comments of the referee on the thesis highlights and shortcomings (following the 5 numbered aspects of your assessment indicated below).

1) Theoretical background: The author based her research on the works of A. T. Mahan, J. Mearsheimer and P. Kennedy. There is no dispute, that aforementioned authors, their ideas and theoretical concepts are appropriate for research of chosen topic.

2) Contribution: The topic of the thesis is current, attractive and completely relevant to the GPS field of studies. It makes sense to try to find matches and differences in the imperial or power rise of Britain, the US, and China in this period of time. If we could dispel our doubts about China's current and future behavior, the further development of the international community could be spared many mistakes and problems.

3) Methods: To answer a research question, the comparative approach appears to be clearly the best and the right choice. By compiling an "imperial toolbox" for each power, the author created robust and rational basis for comparison. Thanks to that it is possible to consider, that author's conclusions are relevant and rational.

4) Literature: The work is based on a sufficient number of information sources of different nature. Due to the nature of the topic, it is acceptable that some passages are processed primarily from electronic sources. Links to the sources used are duly and carefully marked in the text.

5) Manuscript form: The text of the thesis can be evaluated as meeting the required standards. Typing errors or grammar mistakes are not frequent, if so, it does not complicate the readability of the text. The list of used sources should be elaborated carefully. It is quite unpleasant for the reader to orientate as electronic and printed sources are not listed separately, monographs and articles are not distinguished, as well as scientific and non-scientific sources.

DATE OF EVALUATION:

Referee Signature

The referee should give comments to the following requirements:

1) THEORETICAL BACKGROUND: Can you recognize that the thesis was guided by some **theoretical fundamentals** relevant for this thesis topic? Were some important theoretical concepts omitted? Was the theory used in the thesis consistently incorporated with the topic and hypotheses tested?

Strong Average Weak
20 10 0 points

2) CONTRIBUTION: Evaluate if the author presents **original ideas** on the topic and aims at demonstrating **critical thinking** and ability to draw conclusions based on the knowledge of relevant theory and relevant empirical material. Is there a distinct **value added** of the thesis (relative to knowledge of a university-educated person interested in given topic)? Did the author explain **why** the observed phenomena occurred? Were the policy implications well founded?

Strong Average Weak
20 10 0 points

3) METHODS: Are the **hypotheses** for this study clearly stated, allowing their further verification and testing? Are the theoretical explanations, empirical material and **analytical tools** used in the thesis relevant to the research question being investigated, and adequate to the aspiration level of the study? Is the thesis **topic comprehensively analyzed** and does the thesis not make trivial or irrelevant detours off the main body stated in the thesis proposal? More than 10 points signal an exceptional work, **which requires your explanation "why" it is so**.

Strong Average Weak
20 10 0 points

4) LITERATURE REVIEW: The thesis demonstrates author's full understanding and **command of recent literature**. The author quotes relevant literature in a proper way and disposes with a representative bibliography. (Remark: references to Wikipedia, websites and newspaper articles are a sign of **poor research**). If they dominate you cannot give more than 8 points. References to books published by prestigious publishers and articles in renowned journals give much better impression.

Strong Average Weak
20 10 0 points

5) MANUSCRIPT FORM: The thesis is **clear and well structured**. The author uses appropriate language and style, including academic **format** for quotations, graphs and tables. The text effectively refers to graphs and tables, is easily readable and **stimulates thinking**.

Strong Average Weak
20 10 0 points

Overall grading scheme at FSV UK:

TOTAL POINTS	GRADE	Czech grading
91 – 100	A	= excellent
81 - 90	B	= good
71 – 80	C	= satisfactory
61 - 70	D	= satisfactory
51 - 60	E	
0	F	= fail (not recommended for defence)